



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,858	03/15/2004	Atsushi Ashikagaya	250420US3	2043

22850 7590 06/02/2006

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2854

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,858

Applicant(s)

ASHIKAGAYA, ATSUSHI

Examiner

Ren L. Yan

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-15-2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kanno(6,718,872).

The patent to Kanno teaches the structure of a duplex printer capable of switching between a simplex print mode and a duplex print mode as claimed including a printing section including a print drum 12 and a press roller 13, the press roller being provided so as be movable into or out of contact with the print drum; a sheet feeding section 4 for feeding a sheet toward the printing section; a sheet discharging section 6 for discharging to an outside of the printer a printed sheet on which printing has been performed in the printing section; an auxiliary tray 8 for temporarily retaining thereon a front-side-printed sheet having a print image formed on its front side in the printing section; refeeding means 23 for refeeding the front-side-printed sheet retained on the auxiliary tray 8 toward the printing section; and a path selector 10 for steering the sheet coming out of the printing section to one of the auxiliary tray 8 and the sheet discharging section 6, wherein, in the duplex print mode, a master 65 having a first perforated image 65A and a second perforated image 65B formed thereon side by side, is wound around the print drum 12, and a first sheet P1 is fed to the printing section from the sheet feeding section 4 to print a first print image corresponding to the first perforated image on a front side

Art Unit: 2854

of the first sheet, and after the first sheet having the first print image printed thereon is steered toward the auxiliary tray 8 by the path selector 10, a second sheet P2 is fed to the printing section from the sheet feeding section 4 to print the first print image on a front side of the second sheet while the refeeding means 23 feeds the first sheet to the printing section again to thereby print a second print image corresponding to the second perforated image on a reverse side of the first sheet, and the first sheet and the second sheet are steered by the path selector 10 toward the sheet discharging section and the auxiliary tray, respectively. Kanno teaches the use of registration rollers 71 for controlling the sheet feeding timing for each of the sheets being fed from the sheet feeding section 4 and the use of the refeed roller 23 for controlling the front-side-printed sheet refeed timing and a operation panel equipped with a microprocessor 130-132 to coordinate the registration rollers 71 and the refeed roller 23 so as to carry out the sheet feeding and refeeding operations in an orderly manner during the double side printing operation. Accordingly, the structure of the duplex printer as taught by Kanno is well capable of effecting position adjustment on each of the first and second print images with respect to each of the first and the second sheets in sheet conveyance direction, with position adjustment on the first print image being effected by changing a sheet feeding timing of the sheet feeding section and position adjustment on the second print image being effected by changing a refeeding timing of the refeeding means.

With respect to claim 2, the sheet feeding section 4 in Kanno includes a registration roller pair 71 for feeding the sheet toward the printing section, and the refeeding means includes a refeed registration member 23 for feeding the front-side-printed sheet toward the printing section again, and wherein a feeding timing and a refeeding timing for the sheet with respect to the

Art Unit: 2854

printing section are changed by changing operation timings of the registration roller pair and the refeed registration member, respectively.

With respect to claim 3, the duplex printer of Kanno further comprising a master making section 3 for making the master having the first and second perforated images 65A and 65B, the master making section making, as the master having the first and second perforated images, a master having a non-image area S formed between the first perforated image and the second perforated image, for preventing a trailing end of the second sheet printed with the first print image and a leading end of the first sheet printed with the second print image from overlapping with each other in the duplex print mode.

With respect to claim 4, the master making section in the duplex printer of Kanno is well capable of forming the non-image area such that the non-image area has a width not smaller than one of a position adjustment amount of the first print image and a position adjustment amount of the second print image. It is noted by the Examiner, there is no structure or position adjustment amount of the first and second print images being defined in the claims so as to be afforded any patentable weight.

With respect to claim 5, the master making section in the duplex printer of Kanno is well capable of forming the non-image area such that the non-image area has a width not smaller than the sum of a position adjustment amount of the first print image and a position adjustment amount of the second print image. It is noted by the Examiner, there is no structure or position adjustment amount of the first and second print images being defined in the claims so as to be afforded any patentable weight.

With respect to claim 6, the width of the non-image area in the master of Kanno can be set arbitrarily between a minimum width and a maximum width, the minimum width and the maximum width being set when the position adjustment amount of the first print image and the position adjustment amount of the second print image are 0 and a maximum value, respectively as recited since this is just a functional statement without any specific requirement for the position adjustment amount of the first and second print images.

With respect to claim 7, the operation panel 103 in the duplex printer of Kanno would allow the operator to input a positional adjustment amount for one of the first print image and the second print image after the width of the non-image area is set, a position adjustment amount for the other of the first print image and the second print image is restricted so as not to exceed the set width of the non-image area as recited.

With respect to claim 8, the duplex printer of Kanno is capable of carrying out the function such that after the width of the non-image area is set and a position adjustment amount is input for one of the first print image and the second print image, then a position adjustment amount is to be input for the other of the first print image and the second print image, a warning is issued if a value of the position adjustment amount to be input exceeds the width of the non-image area as recited.

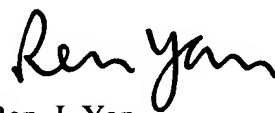
With respect to claim 9, the duplex printer of Kanno is capable of carrying out the function such that when the warning is issued, if the set width of the non-image area is smaller than the maximum width, the width of the non-image area is reset to the maximum width and a message is displayed on the display panel to urge an operator to perform master making again as recited.

Art Unit: 2854

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L. Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
May 24, 2006